AR 7223 1/1 George and Lillian Friedmann Collection S47/1

Personal documents and correspondence - 1938-1939, 1975-1983

FRIEDMAN - S.S. ST. LOUIS AR 7223

Lillian and George Friedman, along with four relatives, were the only passengers allowed to disembark from the ill fated s.s. St. Louis in Havana. The collection contains documents and correspondence related to the Friedmans' emigration from Germany and Cuba, as well as documents related to the freezing of their assets and Jewish forced contributions in Germany in 1939. The collection includes a short account of the family's emigration by Lillian Friedman.

Extent: 2½ inches
Languages: German, English, Spanish
Donor: Werner J. Lipton, 1983

Folder #1: Documents and correspondence concerning George and Lillian Friedman. Biographical sketch of Lillian Friedman, her account of the St Louis incident, photo of the Friedmans boarding the St. Louis, documents registering the addition of 'Israel' and 'Sara' to the Friedmans' names.

Folder #2: Documents related to the freezing of assets, forced Jewish contributions. Bank books, income tax forms (1938), declarations of property relative to forced contribution prior to emigration, correspondence concerning Lillian Friedman's unsuccessful attempts to use frozen assets to secure passage for another cousin.

Folder #3: Correspondence concerning restitution and disposition of some funds in Germany after emigration (1941).

Folder #4: Documents and correspondence related to booking passage on the s.s. Orinoco and s.s. St. Louis.

Folder #5: Documents and correspondence related to Cuba - USA immigration.

Prepared by: Pieter M. Judson

WERNER J. LIPTON
~~4550 E. REDLANDS~~
FRESNO, CA 93726
December 22, 1982

27 DEC 1982

Copy to
file/DS

JAN - 6 1983

Director
Leo Baeck Institute
129 East 73rd Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Sir:

If you have read the book "Voyage of the Damned", you may recall that a small group of unidentified people mysteriously were rescued from the "St. Louis" just before she was forced to return to Europe. This group was my aunt and uncle and family. The rescue was arranged by the mother of former Ambassador Walter Annenberg, a distant relative of my uncle.

I have various documents and letters related to this episode and would be willing to deposit them in a reliable archive if they are of more than familial interest.

Please, advise me whether or not the Leo Baeck Institute would be interested in having these documents.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Werner J. Lipton

Lilian Friedman

For our Archives

Papers of the Friedman family and their emigration to Cuba on the S/S "St. Louis"

File on the Devisenstelle and Jewish Property, 1933-1938

File on freezing Jewish assets, 1939

File with documents about restitution and immigration to the USA

Photograph of Lillian and Georg Friedman on the "St. Louis" May 1939.

Mr. Werner J. Lipton
4550 E. Redlands
Fresno, CA 93726

May 2, 1983

January 6, 1983
MKG/20/3- FG

Mr. Werner J. Lipton
4550 E. Redlands
Fresno, CA 93726

Dear Mr. Lipton:

Many thanks for your letter of December 22. We are certainly very much interested to have in our archives the documents and letters related to the mysterious rescue of some people from the ill-fated St. Louis. It would be a valuable addition to the archival material we are already holding with regard to the St. Louis and other more or less ill-fated rescue operations during Nazi time.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely yours,

Fred Grubel
Secretary

P.S. I am sure you will be interested to have the brochure and the latest newsletter of our Institute which I am enclosing.h

WERNER J. LIPTON
4550 E. REDLANDS
FRESNO, CA 93726

May 5, 1983

Dr. Sylvia Milton
Chief Archivist
Leo Baeck Institute
129 East 73rd Street
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Milton:

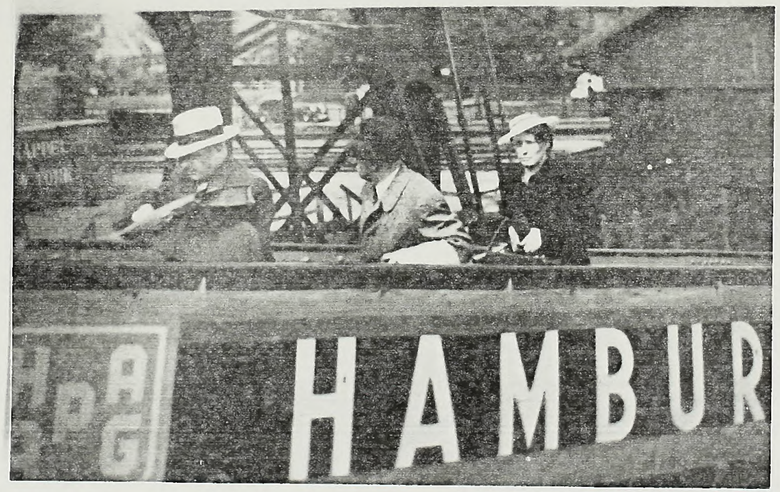
In accordance with your request during our recent telephone conversation, I am pleased to send you herewith a brief biographical sketch of my aunt, Mrs. Lillian Friedman.

Incidentally, when I told my aunt that I had sent the documents to your Institute, she was very pleased.

Sincerely,

Werner J. Lipton

Lilian and George Friedman
boarding "St. Louis", May 13, 1939
Copy of Original



HAPAG
HAMBUR

Right to left: Lillian and George
Friedman boarding "St. Louis", May 13, 1939
(copy of original)

Deutsches Reich

A

Kennkarte

Kennort:	Schwandorf i. Bay.
Kennummer:	D 00014
Gültig bis	15. Januar 1944
Name	Friedmann
Vornamen	Georg Israel
Geburtstag	16. Januar 1877
Geburtsort	Hemau Kr. Kelheim
Beruf	Kaufmann
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen	keine.
Veränderliche Kennzeichen	keine

Bemerkungen:

Keine.

Rechter Zeigefinger

Linker Zeigefinger

(Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers)

Schwandorf, den 15. Januar 1939.

(Ausstellende Behörde)

(Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten)

A 102 (8.38)

Bitte sorgfältig aufbewahren!
Der Absender wird gebeten, nur den umrandeten Teil auszufüllen

Einlieferungsschein

Gegenstand: .....*) Brief .....*) Nr. 222

Nachnahme:	RM	Rpf	Gewicht:	kg	g	
Wert oder Betrag:				RM	Rpf	
Empfänger:	Hauptamt Berlin					
Bestimmungsort:						

Postannahme

Bauer

Dienststempel

SCHWANDORF
21.12.38 11-12
Bayern a

*) Erklärung der Abkürzungen umseitig.

C 62 (10.37)
Din A 7
(6 c 60)

Beachtenswerte Regeln
für den Verkehr an den Postschaltern

Die Post bittet,

1. für Postgeschäfte möglichst **nicht die Hauptverkehrsstunden zu wählen;**
2. auf alle freizumachenden Sendungen **die Marken vor der Einlieferung aufzukleben;** bei Briefsendungen, Postanweisungen und Zahlkarten besteht eine Verpflichtung hierzu;
3. zu Wert- und Einschreibsendungen einen **Einlieferungsschein** — mit Tinte — **vorher auszufüllen;**
4. das **Geld abgezählt** bereit zu halten, größere Mengen **Papiergeld** stets vorher zu **ordnen** und bei gleichzeitiger Ein- oder Auszahlung von **drei** und mehr Postanweisungs- und Zahlkartenbeträgen sowie beim Einkauf von drei **oder** mehr verschiedenen Sorten von Wertzeichen im Betrag von mehr als 5 ℳ **eine aufgerechnete Zusammenstellung** der zu zahlenden Beträge **vorzulegen;**
5. bei eignem stärkerem Verkehr **die besonderen Einrichtungen (Einlieferungsbücher, Selbstvorbereitung** von Paketen, Einschreibbriefen usw.) **zu benutzen.**

Erklärung der Abkürzungen

A = Postauftrag, E = Einschreiben, Einschreibbrief, Postanw = Postanweisung, Pkt = Paket, Pn = Päckchen, W = Wert, Zk = Zahlkarte.

Bitte sorgfältig aufbewahren!
Der Absender wird gebeten, nur den umrandeten Teil auszufüllen

Einlieferungsschein

223

Gegenstand: .....*) Brief .....*) Nr. .....

Nachnahme:	RM	Rpf	Gewicht:	kg	g
Wert oder Betrag:	RM	Rpf			
Empfänger:	Standesamt München				
Bestimmungsort:						

Postannahme

SCHWABMÜNCHEN
21.12.38 11-12
Bayern 1

*) Erklärung der Abkürzungen umseitig.

C 62 (10.37)
Din A 7
(6 c 60)

Beachtenswerte Regeln
für den Verkehr an den Postschaltern

Die Post bittet,

1. für Postgeschäfte möglichst **nicht die Hauptverkehrsstunden zu wählen;**
2. auf alle freizumachenden Sendungen **die Marken vor der Einlieferung aufzukleben;** bei Briefsendungen, Postanweisungen und Zahlkarten besteht eine Verpflichtung hierzu;
3. zu Wert- und Einschreibsendungen einen **Einlieferungsschein** — mit Tinte — **vorher auszufüllen;**
4. das **Geld abgezählt** bereit zu halten, größere Mengen **Papiergeld** stets vorher zu **ordnen** und bei gleichzeitiger Ein- oder Auszahlung von drei und mehr Postanweisungs- und Zahlkartenbeträgen sowie beim Einkauf von drei oder mehr verschiedenen Sorten von Wertzeichen im Betrag von mehr als 5 RM **eine aufgerechnete Zusammenstellung** der zu zahlenden Beträge **vorzulegen;**
5. bei eignem stärkerem Verkehr **die besonderen Einrichtungen (Einlieferungsbücher, Selbstvorbereitung** von Paketen, Einschreibbriefen usw.) **zu benutzen.**

Erklärung der Abkürzungen

A = Postauftrag, E = Einschreiben, Einschreib-, PAnw = Postanweisung, Pkt = Paket, Pä = Päckchen, W = Wert, Zk = Zahlkarte.

Bitte sorgfältig aufbewahren!
Der Absender wird gebeten, nur den umrandeten Teil auszufüllen.

Einlieferungsschein

Gegenstand: ....*) Brief ....*) Nr. 224

Nachnahme:	RM	Rpf	Gewicht:	kg	g
Wert oder Betrag:	RM	Rpf			
Empfänger:	Standesamt				
Bestimmungsort:	München				

Postannahme

Bauch

SCHWANDORF 21.12.38 11-12 (Bayern)

*) Entsprechendes bei Abkürzungen umseitig.

C 62 (10.37)
Din A 7
(6.c 60)

Beachtenswerte Regeln
für den Verkehr an den Postschaltern

Die Post bittet,

1. für Postgeschäfte möglichst **nicht die Hauptverkehrsstunden zu wählen;**
2. auf alle freizumachenden Sendungen **die Marken vor der Einlieferung aufzukleben;** bei Briefsendungen, Postanweisungen und Zahlkarten besteht eine Verpflichtung hierzu;
3. zu Wert- und Einschreibsendungen einen **Einlieferungsschein** — mit Tinte — **vorher auszufüllen;**
4. das **Geld abgezählt** bereit zu halten, größere Mengen **Papiergeld** stets vorher zu **ordnen** und bei gleichzeitiger Ein- oder Auszahlung von drei und mehr Postanweisungs- und Zahlkartenbeträgen sowie beim Einkauf von drei oder mehr verschiedenen Sorten von Wertzeichen im Betrag von mehr als 5 *RM* **eine aufgerechnete Zusammenstellung** der zu zahlenden Beträge **vorzulegen;**
5. bei eignem stärkerem Verkehr **die besonderen Einrichtungen (Einlieferungsbücher, Selbstvorbereitung** von Paketen, Einschreibbriefen usw.) **zu benutzen.**

Erklärung der Abkürzungen

A = Postauftrag, E = Einschreiben, Einschreibbrief, PAnw = Postanweisung, Pkt. = Paket, Pä = Päckchen, W = Wert, Zk = Zahlkarte.

E m p f a n g s s c h e i n.

Der Empfang zweier Reisepässe & zwar

Pass Nr. 43 vom 3. Juli 1933 für F r i e d m a n n Lilian sowie

Pass Nr. 3 vom 2. Januar 1935 für F r i e d m a n n Georg

wird hiemit bestätigt. -

Schwandorf i/Bay., den 14. Oktober 1938.

Der Bürgermeister
der Stadt Schwandorf i. Bay.
M. Schwendberger

Stadt Schwandorf i. Bay.

Schwandorf i/Bay., 21.Dez.1938.

An das

Standesamt III

Muenchen.
Ruppertstr.10.

Betr.: Vornamen :
Georg Friedmann, geb.16.I.1897 in Czempin Prov.Posen
Lillian Friedmann, geborene Bach,
geb. 30. Mai 1906 in Muenchen ,
Eheschliessung 3. Juli 1930 bei obigem Standesamt.

Hierdurch teile ich mit, dass obengenanntem beide Personen ab 1. Januar 1939 gemaess der gesetzlichen Vorschrift die zusaetzlichen Vornamen : " Israel " bezw. " Sara " fuehren.

Ich bitte Sie hiervon Kenntnis zu nehmen und zeichne

hochachtungsvoll

Einschreiben.

Schwandorf i/Bayern, 21.Dez.1938.

An die

Ortspolizeibehoerde

Schwandorf.

Betr.: zusaetzliche Vornamen:
Amalie Friedmann, geb.28.Juli 1871
Bruno Friedmann geb.20.Febr. 1894
Lillian Friedmann, geb.30.Mai 1906
Georg Friedmann, geb. 16.Jan.1897.

Hierdurch teile ich pflichtgemaess mit, dass obengenannte 4 Personen ab 1. Januar 1939 die zusaetzlichen Vornamen " Sara " bezw. " Israel " entsprechend der gesetzlichen Vorschrift fuehren.

Ich bitte Sie davon Kenntnis zu nehmen und zeichne

hochachtungsvoll

NB: Die Standesaemter wurden vorschriftsmaessig benachrichtigt.

Schwandorf i/Bayern, 21.Dez.1938.

An das

Standesamt

Berlin C 2 .

Parochialstr.3.

Betr.: zusaetzlichen Vornamen
fuer Georg Friedmann,
geb. 16. I. 1897
in Czempin, Prov.Posen.

Hierdurch teile ich Ihnen mit, dass ich lt. gesetzlicher Vorschrift ab 1. Januar 1939 den Vornamen " Israel " zusaetzlich fuehre.

Ich bitte um gefl. Kenntnisnahme und zeichne

hochachtungsvoll

Einschreiben.

Schwandorf i/Bay., 21. Dezember 1938.

An das

St a n d e s a m t

Muenchen . 2 M .
Petersplatz 4.

Betr.: Zusaetzlichen Vornamen
fuer Lillian Friedmann, geborene Bach,
geboren 30. Mai 1906 in Muenchen.

Hierdurch teile ich Ihnen mit, dass ich gemaess der gesetzlichen Vorschrifft ab 1. Januar 1939 den zusaetzlichen Vornamen " Sara " fuehre.
Ich bitte Sie davon Kenntnis zu nehmen und zeichne

hochachtungsvoll

Einschreiben.

26 Woodsford Square,
London W14 8DP,
England.

May 27/75.

Werner J. Lipton, Esquire,
4550 E. Redlands,
Fresno, Calif. 93726,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Lipton,

Thank you for your interesting letter of April 6. It was fascinating for us to learn after so long who the last passengers off were - a mystery we were not able to solve during our years of research! I met with Mr. Walter Annenberg (when he was here as American Ambassador)who, although he was very nice and said he would like to help, claimed no real knowledge of the affair.

I do entirely understand your Aunt's reticence to talk to a stranger about her experience on the St. Louis; had I been in her position I think I might have felt the same. And I did not want to arrive one day on her doorstep without a proper invitation!

In any case, I trust she found we told the story creditably. We tried hard.

Yours sincerely,

L. Morgan Witts

Max Morgan Witts

LILLIAN FRIEDMAN

May 30, 1906 -

Lillian Friedman is the daughter of Isidor and Helene Bach (Gundelfinger). She was born in Munich, Bavaria, and lived there until her marriage. Her mother died when she was only a year old. She and her older sister, Fanny (b. 1904), were brought up by their father and stepmother, Regina (Löwenstein).

She married Georg Friedman July 3, 1930. They lived in Schwandorf, Bavaria, until they emigrated to the United States, via Cuba, in 1940. They were childless.

After living in New York, they moved to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1941. She was a legal secretary for a few years and then joined her husband in the window decorating and supply business. After his death in 1950, she continued both aspects of the business, but employed others to do the decorating.

She retired from business in 1976, Since then she has been active volunteering for various Jewish organizations.

May 3, 1983

Werner J. Lipton
(Liebschütz)

Nephew

Mrs. Lillian Friedman
2076 Sherwood Avenue, Apt. 8
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
U.S.A.

June 20, 1975.

Mr. Max Morgan Witts
26 Woodsford Square
London W14-8SDP
England

Re: Voyage of the Damnad

Dear Mr. Witts:

My nephew, Werner Lipton, of Fresno , California sent me your letter in reply to his letter explaining why I had not notified you of the details. You might remember, that you wrote me you would come to America and then talk to me. Some months later, you wrote that your time run short and asked me to send you any documents I might have of my trip on the St. Louis , - I did not know who you were and what your intentions were, other than that you wrote you might write a book. And I never had heard of you before. - In the meantime one of my friends told me that she had read a few of your books and that she was very impressed with your writings. Also, I heard from other people that you were a well-know writer.

So, here is the story. Walter Annenberg could not help you, as he really did not know about us and he never met any of us. - His Mother, Sadie Annenberg, was a first cousin to my husband, George Friedman, who passed away in 1950 here in Louisville. - The 6 people who so mysteriously to everyone, and likewise mysteriously to us 6, were brought ashore while the boat already had started on the way back, were:

Mrs. Amanda Friedman, Mother, who died in Cuba of Heart Trouble
Mr. Bruno Friedman, Son, who came to the United States and died in 1964 of Heart Trouble
Mrs. Celia Back, daughter of Amanda Friedman, who died in New York in 1974
Mr. James Back, husband of Celia, who lives in a Nursing Home in New York and is now 88 years old

Mr. George Friedman, my husband, who passed away in 1950
and myself, Lillian Friedman, living here in Louisville.

Until Hitler came, we did not know anything of the Annenbergs. My father-in-law, Amanda Friedman's husband, had a brother in New York with whom he corresponded maybe twice a year. These 2 brothers were born in Russia and my Father-in-law emigrated to Poland and his Brother to America, when the Zsar would take away the young men and put them in the Army for 14 years or longer. They had not seen each other since they were small children. The Brother in America always wrote that he has a daughter who is so rich that she does not know how much money she has. We assumed that he just boasted and America was far away. Then this brother passed away and my father-in-law passed away a few years later. - When Hitler came and we were desparate, some other member of the family (the husband of another sister) went on a visit to New York with the addresses of a few relatives, who all were hardworking

and honest people, but had not enough income or money to put up affidavits for the 6 of us. They knew that the name of the rich daughter of the uncle was Annenberg, but had no contact with her, and Annebergs had an unlisted telephone number. Finally, this brother-in-law succedded in getting Annenbergs address and phone number and an appointment to see her. She never had heard of us. But in view of the situation, she agreed to furnish us with Affidavits to come to America. - Then the Chrystal night came and the man were put in Concentration Camps, my husband and Bruno in Dachau. At that time , the authorities agreed to release the inmantes if they would leave the country. - Incidentally myself and Amanda Friedman were brought to Jail, but released after about a week. - When this situation occurred, the other sister already was living in New York and she prevailed about Sadie Annenberg to get us to Cuba. This was the way we got our visas to Cuba. We booked passage on the Orinoco, but my husband, uneasy about the situation, flew to Hamburg and succeeded to get earlier passage, on the St. Louis. - Naturally, the Sister in New York was frantic when it was know that the St. Louis passengers could not land and finally Sadie Annenberg agreed to use all her influence to get us off. We never learned the details, we only knew it cost her quite some money. We felt bad about leaving the other passengers, but then we thought it would not help the other passengers either if we would stay on the ship. The ship was already several miles out on High Sea, when we were called on the Loudspeaker to come to a certain place, and then we were taken down to Havanah. A Cuban Lawyer met us there, but we could not go right away to America, as your book stated. We all had to wait for our American Quota . Myself and Celia Back's number came up after 9 Months stay in Cuba, then 3 months later, George's number, and then still later Bruno Friedman and James Back came to America. We all had to wait for our quota to come to the United States. - While we were in Cuba, Sadie Annenberg supported us with $100.00 a month for the six of us , and while we had to pinch pennies to get along, we were very grateful to her. After Celia Back and I came to New York, we supported the remaining 4 members of the family in Cuba. We had promised Annenberg not to be a burden to her and we kept our word. Celia and I hired ourselves out as house-maids, and sent our salary to Cuba. We had room and board and so we could manage. - I met Sadie Annenberg twice or 3 times, we all were very grateful to her, but we assured her that we will not ask her for anything when we come to U.S.A. and we kept our word. Sadie Annenberg mentioned that it cost her quite some money to get us out, and she would not tell her family, as they might get mad of her. This accounts for Walter Annenberg's not knowing of us.

If you sometimes have a second issue of the book issued, you may mention that the mysterious 6 figures were the Friedman Family. Just do not mention that I live in Louisville, I intend to retire from my business next year and like to live a quiet life. I am 69 years now and Like to enjoy a peaceful life. I worked hard, first working as a house-maid, then in a Funeral Home. After that, I learned English Shorthand, as I could not use my German Shorthand, worked in an office, and finally got a Job as a Legal Secretary. Then, later on, I helped my husband in the business, which I have been running now alone since his passing in 1950. Naturally, I have employees to help me.

If you want further information, write to me. Your book was very accurate, with minor errors only, and I am glad that someone took it upon himself to tell the world about the true story.

Yours very truly

26 WOODSFORD SQUARE
LONDON W14 8DP England.
01-602 0657

August 10/75.

Mrs. Lillian Friedman,
Friedman Display Co.,
227 W. Jefferson St.,
Louisville, Kentucky 40202,
U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Friedman,

Thank you very much for your most interesting letter of June 20th. I would have replied sooner but I was in the States (in Alabama) when your letter arrived and I have just returned home.

So now the mystery (as it was for me) has been totally cleared up! It really is quite a wonderful story, in some ways at least, and it is marvellous how well you did when you finally got to the U.S.A.

It was most kind of you to take the trouble to write. Perhaps one day we may meet after all - that would be very nice.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Max Morgan Witts.